MONTANA REGULATIONS

Mountain Lion

1999 big game hunting

Reporting requirement changed to 12 hour notice...see page 1

Turn In Poachers ... **1-800-TIP-MONT** *or* **1-800-847-6668**

LICENSING AND REGULATIONS

Licenses

- A hunter may purchase only one mountain lion license per year.
- Mountain lion licenses are available only at Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP) Headquarters.
- A hunter may legally take one adult mountain lion per season.
- Hunter orange is required for mountain lion hunters.
- Applications must be postmarked by the US Postal Service no later than August 31.

General Regulations

- As a big game animal, mountain lions may only be taken by hunting (rifle, pistol or archery).
- When the total quota is reached in a hunting district or hunting district group, the mountain lion season for that area will close upon 24-hours notice to the harvest of mountain lions, but no later than April 14.
- When the subquota is reached in a hunting district or hunting district group, the mountain lion subquota for that area will close upon 24-hours notice, but no later than April 14.
- The mountain lion license and tag must be validated and attached to the animal immediately upon kill.
- Evidence of sex must remain naturally intact on the hide.
- Evidence of sex must be verified by department personnel before a trophy license is issued. It will also be mandatory that skulls be turned in and tagged at the time a trophy license is issued.
- A hunter harvesting a mountain lion must, if required by FWP, physically return to the kill site for inspection.
- All Wildlife Management Areas are closed to lion hunting in the winter season.
- All National Wildlife Refuges are closed to lion hunting.
- Current harvest information may be obtained by calling the FWP Headquarters in the administrative region where the district is located during normal business hours or statewide information may be obtained by calling **1-800-385-7826** 24 **hours a day.** The toll free line is updated by 1 PM (MST) every day.

Use of Dogs

- Dogs may be used to chase or hunt mountain lions in the winter season. Lion hunting and chasing is open one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset for the dates listed by hunting district.
- It is prohibited for a dog owner or lion hunter to release dogs on a lion track, or allow dogs to chase a lion, or hold a lion at bay during any period of the day or year when the season is not open to hunting or chasing lions. Legitimate attempts to retrieve loose dogs after legal hunting hours does not constitute a violation of this rule.
- Persons handling dogs in the field are required to have purchased a mountain lion license and hound handler permit to hunt OR chase mountain lion during the winter season.
- Hound handler permits must be obtained no later than August 31. EXCEPTION: Outfitters and guides will be eligible to receive a free hound handler permit by presenting their Montana outfitters or guide license and their conservation license. Guides will also be required to provide the license number of the outfitter on whose license they are guiding. This permit is valid only while accompanied by a paying client.
- A hunter that has purchased a valid mountain lion license and has a free hound handler permit may legally chase mountain lion during the hunting season any time after a kill is made or when the quota is reached in a district or until April 14.

New Regulations Adopted in 1999

REMINDER TO HUNTERS- Mountain Lion Quotas Fill Quickly in Some Hunting Districts. Check Wit**h the** Regional Office or Call 1-800-385-7826**.**

- Statewide Fall Season (Oct. 24 - Nov. 28) **WITHOUT DOGS** - Fall Season will close when 20% of Winter Season quota is reached, except in HD 150 and 151.
- Two Subdistricts have special permits - HD 100 and 101. See drawing information in these regulations.
- A portion of the Missoula Special Management Area - the Rattlesnake Area has special rules. These rules are available from Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks Missoula office (406-542-5500).
- Boundary changes were made in Hds 422 and 444. The legal description is included in these regulations. All other legal descriptions are available in the 1999 Deer and Elk Regulations.
- Hunters must personally report their kill within 12 (twelve) hours by calling the FWP Regional Office during office hours (8 am - 5 pm weekdays) in the administrative region where kill was made. Reports can be made after office hours and on weekends by calling the Mountain Lion Reporting Number (406-449-1065) See Below.

Export Mountain Lions

- A CITIES permit is required in order to export mountain lion hides or parts out of the United States. Information on these permits and how to acquire them may be obtained from: Office of Management Authority, USFWS, 4401 N. Fairfax Drive, Room 432, Arlington VA 22203 (1-800-358-2104) or local USFWS office or agent.
- Transporting - If you are transporting game or fish between Montana and Canada, whether for commercial or non-commercial purposes, you must complete a USFWS declaration form. Contact the USFWS Wildlife Inspector at 406-453-5790 or FAX 406-453-3657 for details.

These mountain lion regulations must be used with the Deer, Elk & Lion maps in the 1999 Deer and Elk Regulations and Legal Descriptions.

LICENSING AND REGULATIONS

Mountain Lion Trophy

A hunter harvesting a mountain lion must:

- Personally report their lion kill within 12 hours by calling the FWP Regional Office during office hours (8 am - 5 pm weekdays) in the administrative region where the kill was made. Reports can be made after office hours and on weekends by calling the Mountain Lion Reporting Number (406-449-1065). Hunters must then personally present the hide and skull within ten (10) days to an officer of FWP residing in the administrative region in which the license was filled, for the purpose of inspection, tagging, recording of kill, and issuance of a trophy license. Hunters unable to comply with the tagging and trophying requirements due to special or unique circumstances, must contact the administrative region in which the lion was killed and receive authority for tagging and trophying outside the region in which the animal was taken.
- The hide tag must thereafter remain attached to the hide until tanned.
- The skull tag must remain attached to the skull for at least one year.
- The lion skull will be retained by FWP for processing and examination and then returned to the owner.
- It is unlawful for anyone to possess, ship, transport, sell or purchase any mountain lion, or part thereof, unless they have been tagged as prescribed.

STATEWIDE FALL HUNTING SEASON WITHOUT DOGS (Oct 24 - Nov. 28)

Mountain lion may be taken during the fall season (Oct. 24- Nov. 28). The season will close on Nov. 28 or upon reaching 20% of the quota established for the winter season as shown in these regulations. **USE OF DOGS IS PROHIBITED DURING THIS SEASON. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS ARE THE SAME.** During this season female lions with kittens should not be taken. If a lactating female is killed, the hunter is to inform an official of FWP as soon after the kill as possible so that an attempt can be made to backtrack the lion and locate the kittens. No juveniles (with body spots) shall be killed. The fall season harvest will be deducted from the winter season quota.

WINTER SEASON (Dec.1 - Apr. 14)

Females with kittens may not be taken. If a lactating female is killed, she shall be backtracked and the kittens captured and turned over to FWP within 24 hours (kittens are young of the year). No juveniles (with body spots) shall be killed.

BOUNDARY CHANGES Hds 422, 444

Boundary changes have been made in Hds 422 and 444. Legal descriptions are as follows. See maps in the 1999 Deer, Elk Regulations.

422 - North Dearborn: That portion of Lewis and Clark County lying within the following-described boundary: Beginning at State Route 200 at Bowman's Corner, then southwest along said route to the Continental Divide at Roger's Pass, then northwesterly along said divide to the head of the South Fork of the Sun River, then northerly down said river to USFS Trail 248, then easterly along said trail to USFS Trail 212, then southeasterly down said trail to USFS Trail 232 (Crown Creek Trail), then easterly along said trail to USFS Trail 244, then southeasterly along said trail to the Smith Creek Trail, then northeasterly along said trail to Smith Creek Road, then easterly along said road to FAS 434, the southerly along said road to the intersection with the Flat Creek Road approximately one half mile east of Bean Lake, then easterly along said road to U.S. Highway 287, then southerly along said road to State Route 200 at Bowman's Corner, the point of beginning.

HD 444 - Lower Sun River: Those portions of Cascade, Lewis and Clark and Teton Counties lying within the following-described boundary: Beginning at Simms, then north along County Road 431 to US Highway 89, then westerly along said highway to Choteau and US Highway 287, then southerly along said highway to Augusta and FAS 434, then southerly along said road to the intersection with the Flat Creek Road approximately one half mile east of Bean Lake, then easterly along said road to US Highway 287, then southerly along said highway to State Route 200 at Bowman's Corner, then easterly along said route to Simms, the point of beginning.

LION HUNTING BY SPECIAL PERMIT ONLY

Hunting Districts 100 and 101

Hunters may apply for a special permit to hunt mountain lions in a portion of either Hunting District 100 or 101. Hunters would be permitted to hunt ONLY in the hunting district for which the permit is valid. Hunting in the permit area will continue for permit holders throughout the legal lion season even though the quota may have been met and no other hunting is permitted in the hunting district.

Hunting District 100	4 any legal lion
Hunting District 101	5 any legal lion

Hunters apply by submitting name, address, phone number, 1999 conservation license number and lion license number, hunting district number and a $3 nonrefundable drawing fee no later than September 17, 1999. Special permit application can be made on a 3 x 5 card. Send to Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks, 490 Meridian, Kalispell MT 59901.

Drawing results will be available the first week of October from the FWP Kalispell office.

These regulations and final quotas are adopted under the authority granted to the FWP Commission in Section 87-1-301, MCA, and are valid March 1, 1999 through April 14, 2000 . These regulations and quotas were adopted by the Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks Commission on June 11, 1999. Patrick J. Graham, Secretary.

HUNTING DISTRICTS & QUOTAS

Hunting District (or groups)	Hunting Season	Final Lion Harvest Quotas		
100 SERIES DISTRICTS				
100	Dec. 1 - Apr. 14, 2000	16 any legal lion		
101	Dec. 1 - Apr. 14, 2000	17 any legal lion		
102	Dec. 1 - Apr. 14, 2000	14 any legal lion		
103	Dec. 1 - Apr. 14, 2000	12 any legal lion		
104	Dec. 1 - Apr. 14, 2000	10 any legal lion		
110	Dec. 1 - Apr. 14, 2000	14 any legal lion		
120	Dec. 1 - Apr. 14, 2000	7 any legal lion		
121	Dec. 1 - Apr. 14, 2000	31 any legal lion		
122	Dec. 1 - Apr. 14, 2000	25 any legal lion		
123	Dec. 1 - Apr. 14, 2000	9 any legal lion		
124	Dec. 1 - Apr. 14, 2000	5 any legal lion		
130	Dec. 1 - Apr. 14, 2000	14 any legal lion		
132 & 170	Dec. 1 - Apr. 14, 2000	13 any legal lion		
140	Dec. 1 - Apr. 14, 2000	9 any legal lion		
141	Dec. 1 - Apr. 14, 2000	5 any legal lion		
150 & 151	Sept. 15 - Apr. 14, 2000	6 any legal lion		
200 SERIES DISTRICTS *Except Missoula Special Management Area		TOTAL	Female	Male
200 & 201*	Dec. 1 - Apr. 14, 2000	20	10	10
202 & 203*	Dec. 1 - Apr. 14, 2000	25	15	10
204*260, 261	Dec. 1 - Apr. 14, 2000	10	5	5
Missoula Special Management Area Portions of 201, 203, 204, 260, 283 & 292	Dec. 1 - Apr. 14, 2000	25	15	10
Specific rules for the Rattlesnake Area of the Missoula Special Management Area are available at the Missoula Fish, Wildlife & Parks office.				
210, 211 & 216	Dec. 1 - Apr. 14, 2000	14	8	6
212 & 215	Dec. 1 - Apr. 14, 2000	10	6	4
213 & 214	Dec. 1 - Apr. 14, 2000	4	2	2
240	Dec. 1 - Apr. 14, 2000	30	20	10
250	Dec. 1 - Apr. 14, 2000	15	10	5
270	Dec. 1 - Apr. 14, 2000	20	10	10
280, 281, 284 & 293	Dec. 1 - Apr. 14, 2000	20	8	12
282	CLOSED			
283 & 285	Dec. 1 - Apr. 14, 2000	25	15	10
290, 291 & 292	Dec. 1 - Apr. 14, 2000	14	7	7
300 SERIES DISTRICTS				
300, 302, 328 & 329	Dec. 1 - Apr. 14, 2000	3	2	
301	Dec. 1 - Apr. 14, 2000	6	2	
310, 311, 360, 361 & 362	Dec. 1 - Apr. 14, 2000	12	4	
312 & 393	Dec. 1 - Apr. 14, 2000	10	4	
313 & 316	Dec. 1 - Apr. 14, 2000	3	1	
314	Dec. 1 - Apr. 14, 2000	6	2	
315	Dec. 1 - Apr. 14, 2000	5	3	

HUNTING DISTRICTS & QUOTAS

Hunting District (or groups)	Hunting Season	TOTAL	Female	Male
317	Dec. 1 - Apr. 14, 2000	6	2	
318 & 350	Dec. 1 - Apr. 14, 2000	6	3	3
319, 340 & 341	Dec. 1 - Apr. 14, 2000	4	3	
320 & 333	Dec. 1 - Apr. 14, 2000	5	3	
322, 326 & 330	Dec. 1 - Apr. 14, 2000	6	3	
323, 324, 325 & 327	Dec. 1 - Apr. 14, 2000	6	3	
321, 331 & 332	Dec. 1 - Apr. 14, 2000	5	4	
335, 339 & 343	Dec. 1 - Apr. 14, 2000	10	6	4
370 & 380	Dec. 1 - Apr. 14, 2000	10	5	5
390, 391 & 392	Dec. 1 - Apr. 14, 2000	20	10	10
400 SERIES DISTRICTS				
400, 401, 403, 406, 415 & 441	Dec. 1 - Apr. 14, 2000	5	3	2
404, 421, 444 (district boundary has changed - see page 2) & 450	Dec. 1 - Apr. 14, 2000	11	7	4
405, 447 & 471	Dec. 1 - Apr. 14, 2000	4	2	2
410, 417, 419 & 426	Dec. 1 - Apr. 14, 2000	9	6	3
411 & 412	Dec. 1 - Apr. 14, 2000	13	8	5
413	Dec. 1 - Apr. 14, 2000	7	4	3
416 & 446	Dec. 1 - Apr. 14, 2000	16	9	7
418, 420, 432, 448, 449, 452 & 454	Dec. 1 - Apr. 14, 2000	14	8	6
422 (district boundary changed - see page 2), 423, 424, 425 & 442	Dec. 1 - Apr. 14, 2000	29	19	10
445 & 455	Dec. 1 - Apr. 14, 2000	18	12	6
500 SERIES DISTRICTS				
500 & 570	Dec. 1 - Apr. 14, 2000	3 any legal lion		
502 & 575	Dec. 1 - Apr. 14, 2000	4 any legal lion		
510	Dec. 1 - Apr. 14, 2000	4	2	
511	Dec. 1 - Apr. 14, 2000	4	2	
520	Dec. 1 - Apr. 14, 2000	8	4	
530 & 590	Dec. 1 - Apr. 14, 2000	5 any legal lion		
540	Dec. 1 - Apr. 14, 2000	6	3	
560	Dec. 1 - Apr. 14, 2000	14	7	
580	Dec. 1 - Apr. 14, 2000	8	4	
600 SERIES DISTRICTS				
680 & 690	Dec. 1 - Apr. 14, 2000	10	5	
600, 610, 620, 621, 622, 623, 630, 631, 632, 640, 641, 650, 651, 652 & 670	Dec. 1 - Apr. 14, 2000	3	1	
700 SERIES DISTRICTS				
Region 7	Dec. 1 - Apr. 14, 2000	7 any legal lion		

SEXING A MOUNTAIN LION

Male or Female?

TRACKS

Judge tracks that have been made on a flat and level surface - not running downhill or splayed out in deep snow. Females are less than 3 ½ inches wide. A normal male is 4" wide' 5" wide is a large male. Toms toes are wider, and their heel pad is usually over 2 ½" wide. Females will leave about 18" space between their tracks when walking normally on a flat surface; toms will leave 20" - 22" space between tracks. The stride length of an adult male averages 42 inches, or *over* 40 inches. The stride length of an adult female averages 36 inches, or *less* than 40 inches.

COLOR

Females tend to be more golden or orange with brighter facial markings. Males tend to be more gray or tan. Color is not a very reliable indicator.

WEIGHT AND SIZE

At 18 months of age a subadult should be bigger than his mother. Adult females usually weigh about 80 - 120 pounds. Adult males usually weigh between 120 - 200 pounds.

HEAD SHAPE

Males have a bigger, rounder head. Females heads are more heartshaped.

MUSCULATURE

Males are more muscular; females are lanky in comparison.

BEHAVIOR

Females are generally more nervous in the tree.

SCRAPES

Mature dominant toms mark their territory frequently, making piles of debris, or scrapes, saturated with their scent.

GENITALS

Females have a 1" - 1 ½" gray spot around their vulva, which is just below the anus at the base of the tail. Males have a quarter sized black spot around their penis, which is at least 4" below their tail. THIS IS THE MOST RELIABLE INDICATOR OF SEX: IF THE DARK SPOT IS JUST BELOW THE TAIL, IT IS A FEMALE. If you cannot see this spot, beat the tree with a stick to get the cat to move, or use binoculars.

An estimated 60 - 90% of mature females can be lactating or pregnant. If there is more than one set of tracks, suspect a female. However, she could be as much as five miles away from her kittens. Using hounds to tree lions, "catch and release" lion hunting can be practiced and lions reliably sexed using the above indicators.

Provided by Montana State Houndsmen Association.

REGIONAL BOUNDARIES

STATE HEADQUARTERS
MT Fish, Wildlife & Parks
1420 East 6th Avenue
PO Box 200701
Helena, MT 59620-0701
(406) 444-2535

REGION 1
490 North Meridian Rd
Kalispell, MT 59901
(406) 752-5501

REGION 2
3201 Spurgin Rd
Missoula, MT 59804
(406) 542-5500

REGION 3
1400 South 19th
Bozeman, MT 59718
(406) 994-4042

HELENA Area Res Office (HARO)
930 Custer Ave W
Helena, MT 59620
(406) 444-4720

BUTTE Area Res Office (BARO)
1820 Meadowlark Ln
Butte, MT 59701
(406) 494-1953

REGION 4
4600 Giant Springs Rd
Great Falls, MT 59405
(406) 454-5840

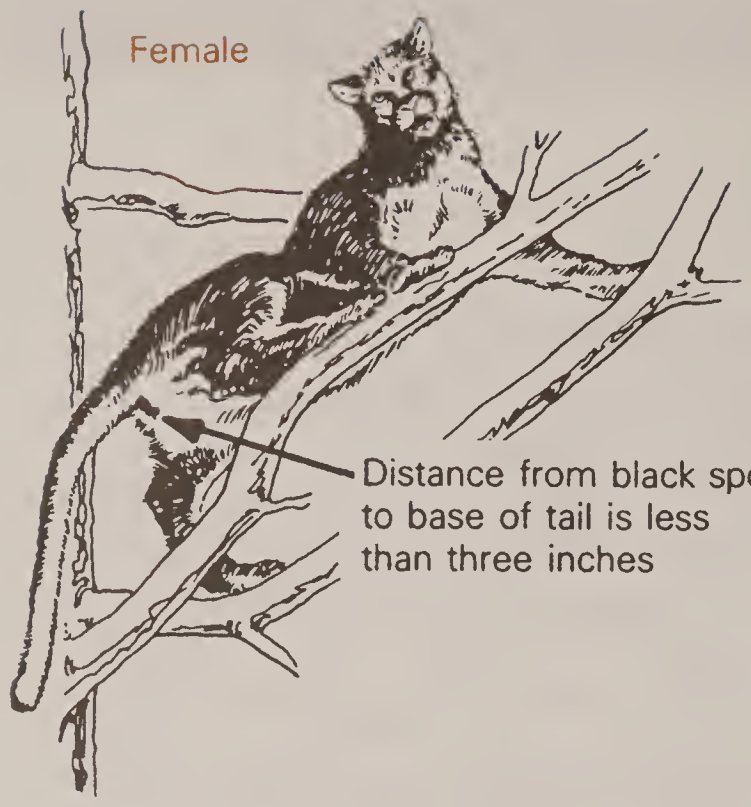
LEWISTOWN Area Res Office (LARO)
2358 Airport Rd
Lewistown, MT 59457

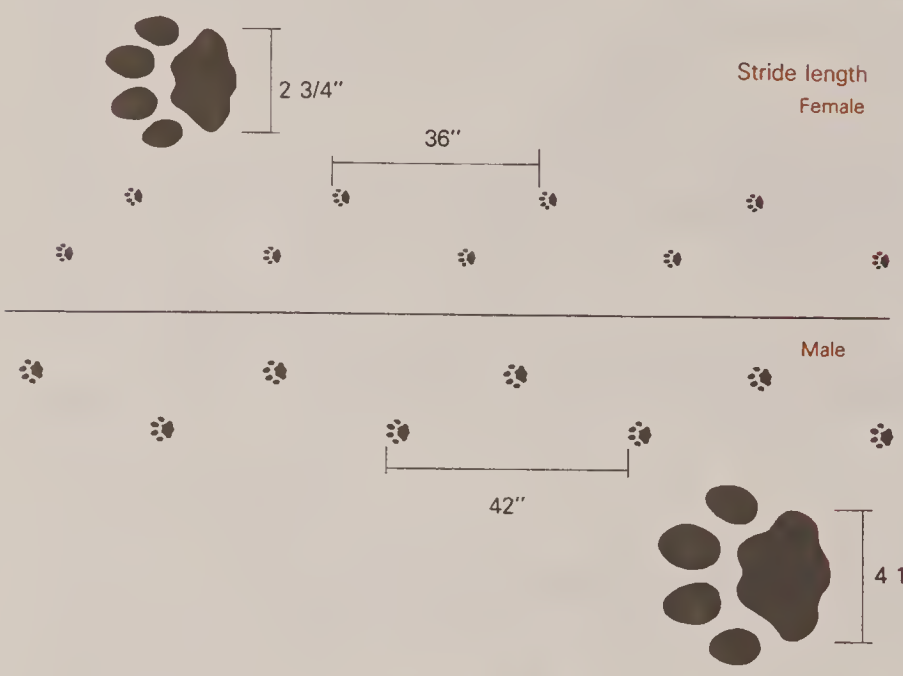
REGION 5
2300 Lake Elmo Dr
Billings, MT 59105
(406) 247-2940

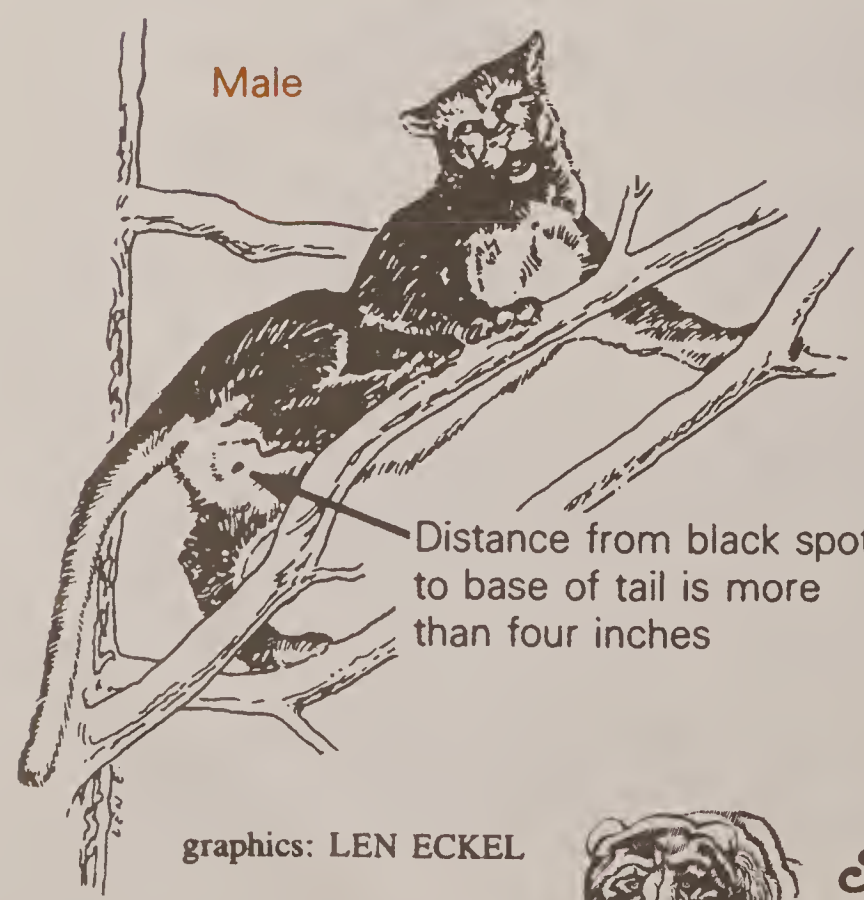
REGION 6
Route 1 - 4210
Glasgow, MT 59230
(406) 228-3700

HAVRE Area Res Office (HvARO)
2165 Hwy 2 East
Havre, MT 59501
(406) 265-6177

REGION 7
PO Box 1630
Miles City, MT 59301
(406) 232-0900



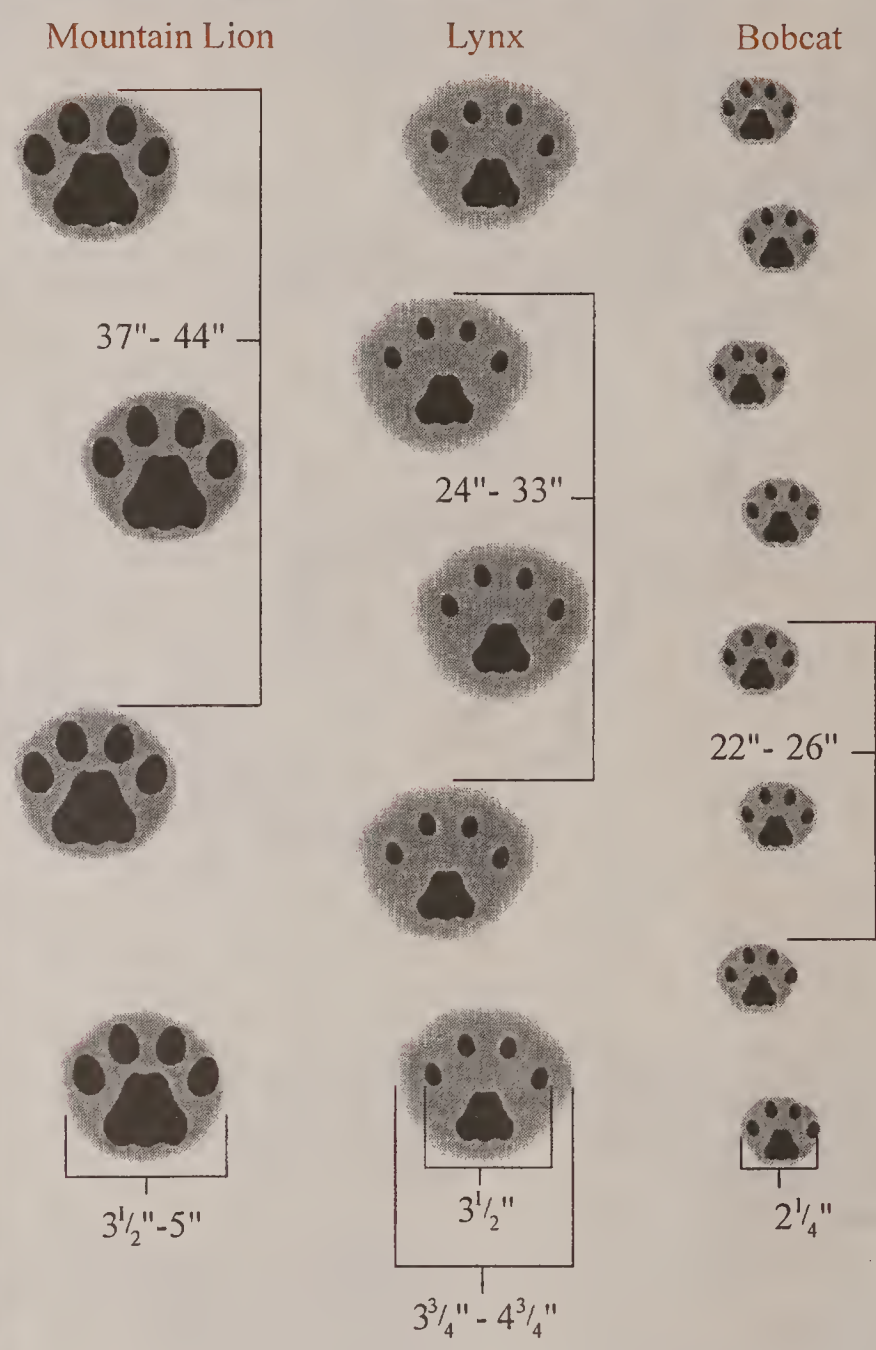




graphics: LEN ECKEL

CAT IDENTIFICATION

Field identification characteristics of Mountain Lion, Lynx, and Bobcat - physical markings and tracks in the snow (Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks, 1999)



- Note differences in tail length of lion and black markings on tip of lynx and bobcat tail
- Lynx ear tufts are longer than bobcat ear tufts
- Lion and lynx foot sizes are similar; bobcat is much smaller
- Tracks are shown with shaded area representing impression of hair in the snow
- Note track size and stride length differences between species

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks